Cover Story Skills Training is the Key

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Skills Training: The Key to Economic Empowerment for Low-income Workers

Toni Thomas



Toni Thomas

Providing a quality education and effective work readiness training are strategies essential to helping to ensure economic empowerment for all

District residents. These strategies are particularly important to TANF recipients, ex-offenders, and the unemployed and under-employed, usually living in impoverished, underserved areas of our city. While education and training provide an excellent base for confronting issues of unemployment in many communities, these components must be combined with social service support programs that help both youth and parents achieve success in basic skills-building.

Since many participants in adult training programs are trying to transition from economic deficiency to economic self-sufficiency, it is important that

training programs provide funds or stipends to defray the cost of transportation, food, and other basic necessities of the program participants. In many cases, participants in adult training programs have limited finances compounded by poor credit scores, and a non-existent support network on which they can rely during their transition from financial dependence to independence. These realities pose as barriers to economic growth for many District residents eager to make a positive change in their lives.

Comprehensive training programs that are outfitted to take on these challenges are more effective and successful in achieving some level of economic sustainability among hard-to-serve District residents. Not only do these programs provide the necessary occupational skills training for demand occupations, but they also

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afford access to important social service programs needed to overcome these barriers.

For example, a life-skills training course can be held in collaboration with a community or faith-based program that offers other support services such as psychological counseling, substance abuse counseling and treatment, transportation and housing assistance, or family counseling. Occupational skills training, job readiness training and personal responsibility training, coupled with job placement assistance will yield positive results to the

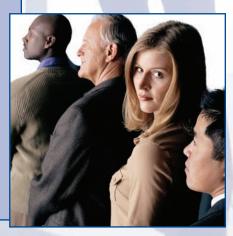
"District residents who have been historically unemployed and under-employed usually lack a high school education, marketable skills, transportation, and affordable childcare. Adult training programs must employ a holistic approach to deal with all of these barriers in order to achieve measurable success."

individual, employers and the economy of the District of Columbia. It is, therefore, contingent upon training programs, particularly those training residents for demand occupations, to assume a holistic approach in their services by providing training as well as access to other support that is necessary for economic prosperity to be realized.

Education and training are indeed core components to ensuring a healthy, vibrant economy and an empowered workforce. However, without partnerships that bring together the social service support arena with the employment and economic development arena, efforts to help our residents, who are most in need, may not be as effective as needed.

Toni Thomas is the Founder and CEO of Toni Thomas Associates, Inc. With 20 years of service under the Department of Housing and Urban Development, she is recognized for designing and conducting training programs focused on increasing performance and productivity, improving organizational operations, assisting low and moderate income persons to become bomeowners, creating new job opportunities and economic growth, and assisting in the revitalization of depressed neighborhoods.

The Toni Thomas Associate Inc. is a community empowerment training academy (TTAI) located in the District of Columbia. The organization works with the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES) and the D.C. Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide training in two demand occupations: commercial driver's license (CDL), Class A, with endorsements; and computer technology training, on basic and advanced level, with a focus on medical office administration. The organization focuses on moving residents from unemployment or under-employment into economic empowerment. From January 2006 through November 2006, TTAI's Community Empowerment Training Academy has enrolled 55 participants in its occupational skills training programs—54 in Commercial Driver's License Training and one in Office Administration/Computer Technology. Of the 55 participants, 20 completed the CDL training and 10 are now gainfully employed in both the public and private sectors as Commercial Vehicle Operators, earning a mean annual salary of \$33,000. Seven students, of the 55 total, did not complete the course and twenty seven (27) residents are currently enrolled. Through the collaborative efforts of TTAI and District agencies such as the Department of Employment Services, it is evident that investments made in residents who are investing in themselves are paying off.



Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted

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	Sept. 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2005
Missississi	7.0	7.1	10.4
Mississippi	7.2	7.1 7.1	10.4
Michigan	7.1		6.5
Alaska	6.6	6.5	6.8
South Carolina	6.4	6.5	7.0
District of Columbia	5.9	5.8	6.2
Oregon	5.4	5.5	6.0
West Virginia	5.4	5.9	5.2
Kentucky	5.3	5.8	6.4
Ohio	5.3	5.7	5.9
Washington	5.3	5.2	5.6
Arkansas	5.2	5.3	4.9
New Jersey	5.2	5.3	4.4
Rhode Island	5.2	5.6	5.1
Indiana	5.1	5.3	5.4
Massachusetts	5.1	4.9	4.8
Missouri	5.0	5.1	5.1
North Carolina	4.9	4.8	5.3
California	4.8	4.9	5.2
Texas	4.8	5.1	5.4
Connecticut	4.7	4.5	4.9
Maine	4.7	4.7	5.0
Wisconsin	4.7	4.6	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.6	4.9	4.8
Tennessee	4.6	5.7	5.5
Georgia	4.5	4.6	5.5
Colorado	4.4	4.8	5.0
Illinois	4.4	4.7	5.6
New York	4.4	4.7	5.1
Kansas	4.3	4.8	5.0
New Mexico	4.2	4.3	5.1
Maryland	4.0	4.1	4.1
Nevada	4.0	4.2	4.0
Oklahoma	4.0	4.2	4.4
Minnesota	3.8	3.7	3.9
Arizona	3.7	3.6	4.8
Delaware	3.7	3.7	4.3
Louisiana	3.7	3.4	12.1
Vermont	3.7	3.7	3.5
Montana	3.6	3.5	3.9
Wyoming	3.6	3.3	3.9
Iowa	3.4	3.6	4.5
Alabama	3.3	3.5	4.0
Idaho	3.3	3.3	3.7
Florida	3.2	3.3	3.5
New Hampshire	3.2	3.5	3.6
South Dakota	3.2	3.2	3.8
Virginia	3.2	3.2	3.6
Nebraska	3.1	3.3	3.7
North Dakota	3.1	3.5	3.5
Utah	2.8	3.2	4.3
Hawaii	2.5	2.8	2.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, D.C. Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research and Information

National Unemployment Rates

The September 2006 national unemployment rate of 4.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted) was down 0.2 percent from the rate in August 2006 and 0.4 percent lower than the rate in September 2005.

The seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate in September 2006 was 4.6 percent; down 0.1 percent from the August 2006 rate and 0.5 percent lower than the September 2005, seasonally adjusted, national unemployment rate.

State Unemployment (Seasonally Adjusted)

In September, the District of Columbia had the fifth highest unemployment rate at 5.9 percent. Mississippi recorded the highest jobless rates at 7.2 percent followed by Michigan, at 7.1 percent, Alaska, at 6.6 percent and South Carolina, at 6.4 percent. Hawaii, at 2.5 percent, posted the lowest unemployment rate, followed by Utah, at 2.8 percent. Nineteen additional states recorded rates of 4.0 percent or below including Virginia, at 3.2 and Maryland, at 4.0 percent.

Over the month, unemployment rates were higher in the District of Columbia and 12 states, lower in 31 states, and unchanged in 7 states. Wyoming and Louisiana (up 0.3 percentage point each) recorded the largest rate increases. The largest rate decreases were in Tennessee (down 1.1 percentage points), Kansas, Kentucky and West Virginia (down 0.5 percentage point each).

Compared to a year earlier, unemployment rates were lower in the District of Columbia and 41 states, higher in 7 states and unchanged in 2 states.

Louisiana (down 8.4 percentage points) recorded the largest over-the-year unemployment rate decrease followed

State Unemployment

(Seasonally Adjusted) continued

by Mississippi (down 3.2 percentage points), Utah (down 1.5 percentage points) and Illinois (down 1.2 percentage points). The largest over-the-year unemployment rate increases were in New Jersey (up 0.8 percentage point) and Michigan (up 0.6 percentage point).



Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

		Sept. 06	Aug 06	Sept. 05 a
U.S.A.		4.4	4.6	4.8
Washington,	DC MSA	3.0	3.2	3.2
Washington,	DC MD	3.1	3.3	3.3
D.C.		6.0	6.1	5.8
D.C. Ward	1	4.9	5.0	4.8
	2	3.0	3.0	2.9
	3	1.5	1.5	1.4
	4	4.5	4.6	4.4
	5	8.7	8.9	8.4
	6	6.8	7.0	6.6
	7	9.6	9.8	9.4
	8	16.0	16.3	15.6

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

U.S.A.	4.6	4.7	5.1
D.C.	5.9	5.8	6.2

a: Reflecting 2005 benchmark revisions

Note: Estimates for the latest year are subject to revision early the following calendar year.

District of Columbia's Unemployment Rate

The District of Columbia's seasonally adjusted September 2006 unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, up 0.1 percent from the August 2006 rate. The September 2006 rate was 0.3 percent lower than the rate in September 2005.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2006 was 6.0 percent; down 0.1 percent from the August 2006 rate and up 0.2 percent from the rate in September 2005.



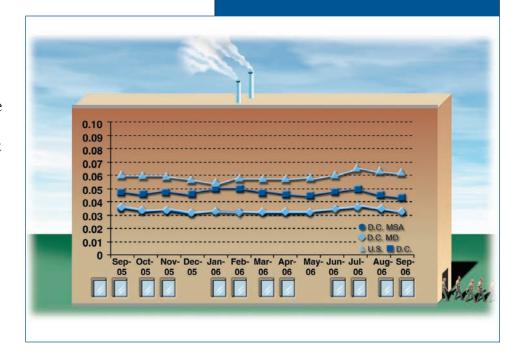
District of Columbia's Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

Over the month, the District's civilian labor force decreased by 7,400 to 288,300. A total of 271,100 residents were employed and 17,200 were unemployed in September 2006. A 6,600 decrease in the number of employed residents along with a drop of 800 in the number of unemployed residents resulted in the 0.1 percent decrease in the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate.

From September 2005 to September 2006, the District's civilian labor force decreased by 5,700 as the number of employed residents decreased by 5,900 and the number of unemployed residents increased by 200. The District's September 2006 unemployment rate was 0.2 percent higher than the rate in September 2005.

Unemployment Rate

September 2005 - September 2006 Not Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics

In September 2006, initial claims filed for Unemployment Insurance (UI) in the District of Columbia fell 32.6 percent from the August 2006 level of 1,753 to 1,182. Over the year, UI initial claims were down 8.2 percent from the 1,288 level in September 2005. The September 2006 initial claims for all programs were down from August 2006 by 562 to 1,227 and lower by 102 or 7.7 percent from the September 2005 level of 1,329.

For the all programs total, most other benefit statistics were lower in September 2006 compared to August 2006. Weeks claimed fell 7.0 percent to

17,478, weeks compensated were down 18.3 percent to 26,922, benefits paid decreased 17.9 percent to \$7,416,721, and the average weekly benefit amount (A.W.B.A.) rose 0.5 percent to \$275.49. First payments were down 30.5 percent to 1,401 and final payments decreased 14.2 percent to 636.

Over the year, most other benefit statistics were lower in September 2006 compared to September 2005. Weeks claimed were down 2.2 percent and weeks compensated fell 5.8 percent. Benefits paid decreased by 4.1 percent while the average weekly benefit amount

rose 1.8 percent from the \$270.57 September 2005 amount. First payments were up 6.3 percent while final payments were 10.2 percent lower.



Washington Metropolitan Division Civilian Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Rates

The civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division decreased by 23,200 in September 2006 as employment declined by 17,600 and the number unemployed decreased by 5,600. The unemployment rate in the Washington Metropolitan Division, at 3.1 percent in September, was down 0.2 percent from the rate in August 2006.

Over the last twelve months, the number of employed residents in the Washington Metropolitan Division rose by 50,100. With 2,900 fewer unemployed division residents, the division civilian labor force rose by 47,200. The metropolitan division's September 2006 unemployment rate of 3.1 percent was 0.2 percent lower than the rate in September 2005.

Washington Metropolitan Area Civilian Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Rates

The civilian labor force in the suburban ring of communities surrounding the District of Columbia decreased by 21,300 in September 2006 as employment fell by 14,600 and the number unemployed decreased by 6,800. The unemployment rate in the suburban ring, at 2.7 percent in September, was down 0.2 percent from the rate in August 2006.

Over the last twelve months, the number of employed residents in the suburban ring rose by 73,700. With 2,600 fewer unemployed suburban residents, the suburban civilian labor force rose by 71,300. The suburban ring's September 2006 unemployment rate of 2.7 percent was 0.2 percent lower than to the rate in September 2005.

For the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, the number of persons in the civilian labor force decreased by 28,700 in September 2006. The number of employed residents in the metropolitan area fell by 21,200, and the number of unemployed residents decreased by

7,600. The metropolitan area's unemployment rate at 3.0 percent in September 2006 was down 0.2 percent from the rate in August 2006.

Compared to September 2005, the metropolitan area's civilian labor force rose by 65,600.

Employment increased by 67,800 and unemployment decreased by 2,400. The Washington Metropolitan Area's September 2006 unemployment rate was down 0.2 percent from the September 2005 rate of 3.2 percent.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population

District of Columbia, Washington Metropolitan Division and Statistical Area September 2006/a

					Net Ch	ange From
	Sept. 2006	Aug. 2006	Sept./b 2005	Aug./b 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept./b 2005
Seasonally Adjusted						
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	289,000	290,200	295,100	295,900	-1,200	-6,100
Total Employed	271,800	273,200	276,900	277,400	-1,400	-5,100
Total Unemployed	17,200	17,000	18,200	18,500	200	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.3	0.1	-0.3
Not Seasonally Adjusted Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	288,300	295,700	294,000	299,800	-7,400	-5,700
Total Employed	271,100	277,700	277,000	281,500	-6.600	-5,900
Total Unemployed	17,200	18,000	17,000	18,400	-800	200
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.1	5.8	6.1	-0.1	0.2
Washington, D.C. Metropo	litan Division					
Civilian Labor Force	2,300,900	2,324,100	2,253,700	2,276,200	-23,200	47,200
Total Employed	2,229,900	2,247,500	2,179,800	2,196,600	-17,600	50,100
Total Unemployed	71,000	76,600	73,900	79,600	-5,600	-2,900
Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.5	-0.2	-0.2
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	2,659,300	2,680,600	2,588,000	2,610,300	-21,300	71,300
Total Employed	2,587,700	2,602,300	2,514,000	2,529,600	-14,600	73,700
Total Unemployed	71.500	78,300	74.100	80.600	-6.800	-2.600
Unemployment Rate	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-0.2
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,947,600	2,976,300	2,882,200	2,910,100	-28,700	65,600
Total Employed	2,858,800	2,880,000	2,791,000	2,811,100	21,200	67,800
Total Unemployed	88,700	96,300	91,100	99,000	-7,600	-2,400
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.4	-0.2	-0.2

a: Data may not add to the totals due to independent rounding.

Note: Estimates for the latest year are subject to revision early the following calendar year.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia, Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manasas, and Manasas Park; the Virginia counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Spotslyvania, Stafford, and Warren; the Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, and Prince Georges; and the West Virginia county of Jefferson.

Estimated labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area includes the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg Metropolitan Division which includes the counties of Frederick and Montgomery in Maryland.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Office of Labor Market Research and Information in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

b: Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions.

District of Columbia Job Growth

The number of District wage and salary jobs decreased by 6,600 in September 2006. The private sector gained 4,400 jobs and the public sector shed 11,000 jobs. In the private sector, educational

and health services increased by 4,900 jobs, leisure and hospitality gained 700 jobs, trade, transportation and utilities added 300 jobs, and financial activities gained 100 jobs. Other services shed

500 jobs, professional and business services and information lost 400 jobs each; and natural resources and construction decreased by 300 jobs. Manufacturing was unchanged. In the public sector, the Federal Government lost 1,300 jobs; the District Government shed 9,800 jobs; and transportation gained 100 jobs.

In the last twelve months, the District gained a total of 9,400 jobs. The private sector added 10,700 jobs while the public sector lost 1,300 jobs. The private sector growth occurred in professional and business services (up by 3,200 jobs), information (up by 1,700 jobs), educational and health services (up by 1,600 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 1,500 jobs), financial activities (up by 1,000 jobs), trade, transportation and utilities (up by 700 jobs), natural resources and construction (up by 500 jobs), other services (up by 300 jobs), and manufacturing (up by 200 jobs). In the public sector, transportation gained 700 jobs while the federal overnment lost 1,100 jobs and the District government shed 900 jobs.

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics (Regular Programs) District of Columbia

		% Change Fro			
	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.
	2006	2006	2005	2006	2005
State UI Program ^a					
Initial Claims	1,182	1,753	1,288	-32.6	-8.2
Weeks Claimed	16,903	18,159	16,990	-6.9	-0.5
Weeks Compensated	25,900	31,684	27,194	-18.3	-4.8
Benefits Paid	\$7,091,659	\$8,624,875	\$7,300,167	-17.8	-2.9
A.W.B.A.	\$273.81	\$272.22	\$268.45	0.6	2.0
First Payments	1,350	1,955	1,265	-30.9	6.7
Final Payments	601	710	660	-15.4	-8.9
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Program ^b					
Initial Claims	37	25	28	48.0	32.1
Weeks Claimed	477	533	672	-10.5	-29.0
Weeks Compensated	924	1,186	1,197	-22.1	-22.8
Benefits Paid	\$290,405	\$378,786	\$370,830	-23.3	-21.7
A.W.B.A.	\$314.29	\$319.38	\$309.80	-1.6	1.4
First Payments	44	49	41	-10.2	7.3
Final Payments	34	27	38	25.9	-10.5
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ex-Servicepersons Prog	ram ^c				
Initial Claims	8	11	13	-27.3	-38.5
Weeks Claimed	98	92	215	6.5	-54.4
Weeks Compensated	98	95	178	3.2	-44.9
Benefits Paid	\$34,657	\$33,082	\$58,830	4.8	-41.1
A.W.B.A.	\$353.64	\$348.23	\$330.51	1.6	7.0
First Payments	7	12	12	-41.7	-41.7
Final Payments	1	4	10	-75.0	-90.0
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total - All Programs					
Initial Claims	1,227	1,789	1,329	-31.4	-7.7
Weeks Claimed	17,478	18,479	17,557	-7.0	-2.2
Weeks Compensated	26,922	24,936	28,569	-18.3	-5.8
Benefits Paid	\$7,416,721	\$9,036,743	\$7,729,827	-17.9	-4.1
A.W.B.A.	\$275.49	\$274.13	\$270.57	0.5	1.8
First Payments	1,401	2,016	1,318	-30.5	6.3
Final Payments	636	741	708	-14.2	-10.2
Beneficiaries	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

a: Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

Average Weekly Benefit Amount (A.W.B.A)

b: Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Servicepersons (UCX). **c:** No joint claims.

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work^a

(In Thousands)

	Sont h/	District of C			letropolitan	
USTRY	Sept. b/ 2006	Aug. c/ 2006	Sept. 2005	Sept. b/ 2006	Aug. c/ 2006	Sept. 2005
AL	687.9	694.5	678.5	2.418.5	2.414.2	2.359.7
Il Private Sector	458.6	454.2	447.9	1,883.1	1,880.0	1,824.2
al Government	229.3	240.3	230.6	535.4	534.2	535.5
Goods Producing	15.1	15.4	14.4	197.3	198.1	194.0
Manufacturing	2.2	2.2	2.0	44.8	44.9	44.0
Durable Goods	na	na	na	26.4	26.6	25.7
Non-Durable Goods	na	na	na	18.4	18.3	18.3
Printing and Related Support Activities	na	na	na	8.5	8.6	8.6
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	12.9	13.2	12.4	152.5	153.2	150.0
Construction	na	na	na	151.5	152.2	149.2
Construction of Buildings	na	na	na	35.2	35.5	34.1
Residential Building Construction	na	na	na	19.2	19.5	19.2
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	na	na	na	18.1	18.2	18.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	na	na	na	98.2	98.5	96.6
Service Providing	672.8	679.1	664.1	2,221.2	2,216.1	2,165.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	28.2	27.9	27.5	328.8	330.4	320.2
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.4	4.6	57.0	57.5	56.1
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	na	na	na	30.1	30.6	30.7
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	na	na	na	14.2	14.2	14.1
Retail Trade	18.1	17.9	17.4	212.5	213.2	205.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	na	na	na	26.3	26.3	25.9
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	na	na	na	17.1	17.3	16.9
Food & Beverage Stores	na	na	na	33.4	33.3	33.2
Health and Personal Care Stores	na	na	na	11.1	10.9	10.8
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	na	na	na	23.5	23.7	23.6
General Merchandise Stores	na	na	na	38.3	38.7	38.1
Department Stores	na	na	na	24.7	24.9	24.6
Other General Merchandise Stores	na	na	na	13.6	13.8	13.5
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	5.6	5.6	5.5	59.3	59.7	58.7
Utilities	na	na	na	7.6	7.5	7.6
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	na	na	na	4.8	4.8	4.8
Transportation & Warehousing	3.0	3.0	3.0	51.7	52.2	51.1
Air Transportation	na	na	na	13.6	13.9	14.0
Couriers and Messengers	na	na	na	7.3	7.4	8.3
Warehousing and Storage	na	na	na	4.6	4.6	4.8
Information	24.1	24.5	22.4	82.2	82.7	82.2
Publishing Industries (except Internet)	9.0	9.1	8.7	na	na	na
Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers	8.0	8.1	7.8	15.8	15.9	15.5
Telecommunications	na	na	na	26.6	26.8	27.5
Wired Telecommunications Carriers	na	na	na	18.4	18.5	20.6
When telecommunications carriers	ila	IIa	Πα	10.4	10.5	20.0
Financial Activities	31.0	30.9	30.0	119.6	120.0	116.9
Finance and Insurance	19.0	18.9	18.8	76.5	77.1	74.9
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	8.3	8.2	8.5	44.5	44.9	43.1
Depository Credit Intermediatiion	3.7	3.8	3.8	19.5	19.5	18.4
	na	na	na	20.5	20.3	19.7
Nondepository Credit Intermediation			10.0	17.5	17.3	17.1
Nondepository Credit Intermediation Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	na	na	na			
Nondepository Credit Intermediation Insurance Carriers and Related Activities Funds, Trusts, and Other Financial Vehicles	na	na	na	5.8	5.7	5.7
Nondepository Credit Intermediation Insurance Carriers and Related Activities						

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work (In Thousands)

		District of C			etropolitan	
JSTRY	Sept. b/ 2006	Aug. c/ 2006	Sept. 2005	Sept. b/ 2006	Aug. c/ 2006	Sept. 2005
301111	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Professional and Business Services	151.7	152.1	148.5	555.9	555.9	529.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	102.2	103.4	100.5	368.6	369.2	350.4
Legal Services	34.7	35.3	34.4	48.1	48.6	47.2
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, & Payroll Services	na	na	na	21.3	21.2	20.5
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services	6.7	6.8	6.6	49.4	49.3	48.3
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	17.7	17.7	17.1	121.2	121.4	115.3
Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Services	13.9	13.8	13.0	61.1	61.2	56.8
Scientific Research and Development Services	15.8	15.9	15.4	37.3	37.5	36.0
Advertising and Related Services	na	na	na	13.1	13.2	12.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	na	na	na	32.0	32.3	30.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	47.5	46.7	46.6	155.3	154.4	148.3
Employment Services	13.1	12.9	12.4	33.4	33.1	33.2
Business Support Services	na	na	na	8.6	8.5	8.9
Investigation and Security Services	8.3	8.2	7.8	24.0	23.8	23.1
Services to Buildings and Dwellings	12.0	11.9	12.0	50.3	50.8	49.4
Educational and Health Services	93.0	88.1	91.4	248.8	239.3	240.6
Educational Services	39.1	33.6	39.8	72.6	62.7	70.2
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	29.4	24.5	30.3	42.7	33.8	42.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	53.9	54.5	51.6	176.2	176.6	170.4
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10.6	10.7	10.2	60.0	60.3	58.3
Offices of Physicians	na	na	na	25.8	25.8	24.9
Outpatient Care Centers	na	na	na	7.4	7.5	7.3
Hospitals	25.5	25.7	24.2	57.0	56.8	55.1
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	7.4	7.5	7.2	27.5	27.7	26.4
Social Assistance	10.4	10.6	10.0	31.7	31.8	30.6
Child Day Care Services	na	na	na	14.9	15.1	14.3
Leisure and Hospitality	56.5	55.8	55.0	210.5	214.2	205.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6.1	6.2	6.2	30.5	33.4	28.7
Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	na	na	na	16.0	19.3	18.7
Accommodation and Food Services	50.4	49.6	48.8	180.0	180.8	176.7
Accommodation	15.5	15.0	15.4	35.4	34.9	34.8
Food Services and Drinking Places	34.9	34.6	33.4	144.6	145.9	141.9
Full-Service Restaurants	17.5	17.0	16.6	74.3	75.3	73.2
Limited-Service Eating Places	10.9	10.9	10.5	56.5	57.2	55.4
Special Food Services	5.1	5.4	5.2	11.2	11.6	11.7
Other Services	59.0	59.5	58.7	140.0	139.4	135.8
Repair and Maintenance	na	na	na	17.7	17.8	16.5
Personal and Laundry Services	na	na	na	27.3	27.2	26.1
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, & Similar Organizations	52.0	52.6	51.9	95.0	94.4	93.2
Business, Professional, Labor, Political, & Similar Organizations	25.4	25.6	25.8	42.2	42.4	42.1
Government	229.3	240.3	230.6	535.4	534.2	535.5
Federal Government	192.0	193.3	193.1	295.6	298.0	297.4
State Government & Local Government / Public Transportation	37.3	47.0	37.5	239.8	236.2	238.1
State Government	32.3	42.1	33.2	70.7	76.9	70.9
		na	na	169.1	159.3	167.2
Local Government	na					

a: Data may not equal totals due to independent rounding. Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full and part-time employees who worked or received pay for any part of pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia; Calvert County, MD; Charles County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Clarke County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; Fauquier County, VA; Loudoun County, VA; Prince William County, VA; Spotsylvania County, VA; Stafford County, VA; Warren County, VA; Alexandria City, VA; Fairfax City, VA; Falls Church City, VA; Fredericksburg city, VA; Manassas City, VA; Manassas Park City, VA; and Jefferson County, WV

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services Office of Labor Market Research and Information in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

b: Preliminary.

c: Revised.

Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area increased over the month in September 2006 by 4,600. The private sector increased by 700 jobs and the public sector gained 3,900 jobs. Within the private sector, gains were registered in educational and health services (up by 9,900 jobs), professional and business services (up by 300 jobs), and other services (up by 200 jobs). Private sector losses were noted in leisure and hospitality (down by 5,200 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (down by 2,100 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction and financial activities (down by 800 jobs each), information (down by 500 jobs), and manufacturing (down by 300 jobs). In the public sector, the federal government lost 2,900 jobs.

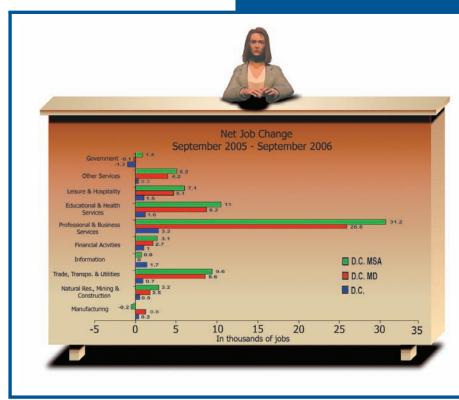
During the past twelve months, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area gained 72,200 jobs. The private sector gained 70,800 jobs and the public sector added 1,400 jobs. Private sector gains were registered in professional and

business services (up by 31,200 jobs), educational and health services (up by 11,000 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 9,600 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 7,100 jobs), other services (up by 5,200 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (up by 3,200 jobs), financial activities (up by 3,100 jobs), and information (up by 600

jobs). Manufacturing lost 200 jobs. In government, the federal government lost 2,000 jobs.

Net Job Change

In Thousands of Jobs Not Seasonally Adjusted September 2005 - September 2006



Washington Metropolitan Division Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month in September 2006 by 4,300. The private sector increased by 3,100 jobs and the public sector gained 1,200 jobs. Within the private sector, gains were registered in educational and health services (up by 9,500 jobs) and other services (up by 600 jobs). Private sector losses were noted in leisure and hospitality (down by 3,700 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (down by 1,600 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (down by 700 jobs),

information (down by 500 jobs), financial activities (down by 400 jobs), and manufacturing (down by 100 jobs). Professional and business services was unchanged over the month. In the public sector, local government gained 9,800 jobs; the federal government lost 2,400 jobs; and state government shed 6,200 jobs.

During the past twelve months, the Washington Metropolitan Division gained 58,800 jobs. The private sector gained 58,900 jobs and the public sector lost 100 jobs. Private sector gains were registered in professional and

business services (up by 26,800 jobs), trade, transportation, and utilities (up by 8,600 jobs), educational and health lservices (up by 8,200 jobs), leisure and hospitality (up by 5,100 jobs), other services (up by 4,200 jobs), financial activities (up by 2,700 jobs), natural resources, mining and construction (up by 2,500 jobs), and manufacturing (up by 800 jobs). Information was unchanged over the year. In government, local government gained 1,900 jobs while the federal government lost 1,800 jobs and state government shed 200 jobs.

Washington D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work

(In Thousands)

M.I	NI.		_		
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NDUSTRY	Sept. b/ 2006	Aug. c/ 2006	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2006	Sept. 2005
FOTAL Fotal Private Sector Fotal Government	3006.4 2375.8 630.6	3001.8 2375.1 626.7	2934.2 2305.0 629.2	4.6 0.7 3.9	72.2 70.8 1.4
Total Goods Producing	261.1	262.2	258.1	-1.1	3.0
Manufacturing Natural Resources, Mining & Construction Specialty Trade Contractors	64.9 196.2 124.8	65.2 197.0 125.0	65.1 193.0 121.6	-0.3 -0.8 -0.2	-0.2 3.2 3.2
Total Service Providing	2745.3	2739.6	2676.1	5.7	69.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities Wholesale Trade Retail Trade Food & Beverage Stores General Merchandise Stores Department Stores Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	414.0 72.0 276.1 45.0 48.6 32.7 65.9	416.1 72.5 277.3 44.9 39.0 33.1 66.3	404.4 71.8 267.0 44.6 48.2 32.8 65.6	-2.1 -0.5 -1.2 0.1 -0.4 -0.4	9.6 0.2 9.1 0.4 0.4 -0.1 0.3
Information Telecommunications	100.5 32.6	101.0 32.8	99.9 33.8	-0.5 -0.2	0.6 -1.2
Financial Activities Finance and Insurance Credit Intermediation and Related Activities Professional and Business Services Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services Computer Systems Design and Related Services Scientific Research and Development Services Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services Employment Services Services to Buildings and Dwellings Educational and Health Services Health Care and Social Assistance Ambulatory Health Care Services Offices of Physicians Hospitals Leisure and Hospitality Accommodation and Food Services Food Services and Drinking Places	164.8 107.3 59.0 681.1 445.9 141.4 53.8 201.0 48.9 66.1 320.9 234.6 84.7 36.2 69.2 261.2 222.4 178.6	165.6 108.0 59.5 680.8 446.3 141.7 54.1 200.1 48.5 66.9 311.0 235.2 85.1 36.3 68.9 266.4 223.7 180.5	161.7 105.0 57.6 649.9 425.4 135.3 51.5 190.6 47.2 64.4 309.9 228.0 82.5 35.1 67.3 254.1 217.5 175.1	-0.8 -0.7 -0.5 0.3 -0.4 -0.3 -0.4 -0.8 9.9 -0.6 -0.4 -0.1 0.3 -5.2 -1.3 -1.9	3.1 2.3 1.4 31.2 20.5 6.1 2.3 10.4 1.7 1.7 11.0 6.6 2.2 1.1 1.9 7.1 4.9 3.5
Other Services	172.2	172.0	167.0	0.2	5.2
Government Federal Government	630.6 338.4	626.7 341.3	629.2 340.4	3.9 -2.9	1.4 -2.0

a: Data may not equal totals due to independent rounding. Data reflect 2005 benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full and part-time employees who worked or received pay for any part of pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area includes The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, MD Metropolitan Division

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes the District of Columbia; Calvert County, MD; Charles County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Clarke County, VA; Fairfax County, VA; Fauquier County, VA;

The Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, MD Metropolitan Division includes the counties of Frederick and Montgomery in Maryland

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Table prepared by the Department of Employment Services Office of Labor Market Research and Information.

b: Preliminary.

c: Revised.

D.C. Metro Area Average Hours and Earnings (of production workers in manufacturing)

In September 2006, average weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers in the Washington metropolitan division declined by \$1.57 over the month to \$676.20. A decrease in average hourly earnings was responsible for the loss. Average hourly earnings were down four cents over the month to \$17.25 while the average number of hours worked was 39.2, unchanged from August 2006.

From September 2005 to September 2006, average weekly earnings increased by \$16.60. This increase was due to a seventy-six cent rise in hourly earnings. Over the year, average weekly hours declined by 0.8 hour.

Metro Hours and Earnings

Of Production Workers in Manufacturing September 2005 - September 2006

	Sept. '06p	Aug. '06 ^r	Sept. '05a
Weekly Earnings	\$676.20	\$677.77	\$659.60
Weekly Hours	39.2	39.2	40.0
Hourly Earnings	\$17.25	\$17.29	\$16.49

p = Preliminary

r = Revised

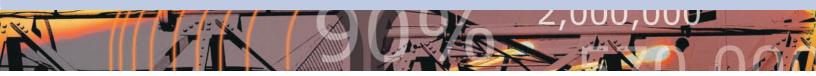
a = Reflecting 2005 benchmark revisions

The Labor Market Trends Washington Metropolitan Newsletter is a monthly publication of the D.C. Department of Employment Services' Office of Labor Market Research and Information (OLMRI). Charles Roeslin is Associate Director of OLMRI. For inquiries/comments/suggestions, please call (202) 671-1633.

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